

NOTES FROM THE:

Comptroller Training Flight

by Maj John Soares

This past year turned out to be a challenging year for the Comptroller Schoolhouse. Merged courses, revised courses, and our new computer equipment brought excitement to the training environment in addition to reinforcing the theme that great things are happening at the Schoolhouse.

Having completed the last merger in enlisted training with the merger of AFSC 6F0X0, Financial Management and Services, with AFSC 6F0X1, Financial Analysis, has created the revised 6F0X0, Financial Management and Comptroller AFSC. In order to make this merger happen, we basically kept the old Financial Management and Services Apprentice course the same except for adding an 8-hour module. This module provides an overview of the functions and responsibilities of Financial Management Analysis (FMA) section. The old Financial Analysis Apprentice course was then converted from a 39-day AFSC awarding course to an 18-day supplemental course. This significant reduction in course length was made possible with the elimination of cross-trainees outside the Financial Management and Comptroller AFSC as the primary source for FMA workforce. Consequently, the additional time required to provide students with the accounting fundamentals in supplemental FMA course will no longer be required since a prerequisite for this course will be award of 5-level Financial Management and Comptroller AFSC. The final significant change for this course will be the change from a centrally funded AETC course to a unit funded course. This final merger brings the enlisted comptroller career field down to one single entry-level course. This course will provide our entry-level students with a sound foundation, which will have to be developed further by both return to the Schoolhouse for supplemental courses as well as by supervisors through a strong OJT program.

The career field merger also impacted our Craftsman courses. Here, too, we have merged two courses into one. However, the main theme of the new Craftsman course changed dramatically from previous courses. The focus of this newly merged Craftsman course is now on contingency operations and is broken down into two parts. The first week students spend time learning the knowledge and skills necessary for deployed operations and includes Automated Battlefield System (ABS) training. Then, in the second week via realistic scenarios, they get the opportunity

to employ the knowledge and skills they have learned during their first week. Consequently, graduates from the course will leave with the critical skills necessary to execute the comptroller mission in an Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) environment.

The career field merger also affects skill level training in terms of Career Development Courses (CDCs). The Extension Course Institute (ECI) has activated the revised CDCs containing training material authorized in the last Utilization and Training Workshop. These new CDCs are now required for all personnel who entered either 5-level or 7-level upgrade training after 1 August 1999. The three new CDCs and their contents are:

6F051A—One volume set that contains material covering Customer Support/Service processes including Military Pay, Travel Pay, and Civilian Pay as well as Contingency Operations. Available to field 1 October 1999.

6F051B—Three volume set that contains material covering Accounting Liaison Office, DFAS OPLOC, and Financial Analysis functions. Available to field 1 January 2000.

6F071—One volume set that covers comptroller supervisory responsibilities. Available to field 1 September 1999.

On the officer side of the Schoolhouse, we are responding to the end-of-course critiques of our Basic Financial Management Officer (BFMO) to add to the Financial Services Officer (FSO) portion of the course. As such we have been working with the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office (AFAFO) in order to add/update course material in the following areas: Quality Assurance Program, Internal Controls, and Disbursing Operations. These changes are being incorporated as we speak and will be ready for the first two BFMO courses slated to start on 12 January 2000. We will then enter the process of validation during the first four courses this new material is to be taught in to determine if these changes have corrected the concerns identified on previous end-of-course critiques. My thanks

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to the staff at AFAFO for their invaluable help in helping us move forward with the curriculum improvements to the FSO portion of the BFMO course.

Concerning our new desktop computers, laptops, and printers—thank you, thank you, thank you. It was really wonderful to see all of those computers being unloaded here at the Schoolhouse and knowing that we now have the latest state-of-the-art equipment to use and train on. The instructor staff is overjoyed; students are amazed; and complaints regarding outdated equipment should all but cease. Again, thank you.

As you can see we've got a full plate at the Schoolhouse and with the continued pace of change in the comptroller community, the need for rewrites/updates to our courses are continuous. With some of my key personnel recently or soon to be departing, we've got some super opportunities for folks at all levels that are interested in an incredibly rewarding experience. We need the best people to train and mold the future of our career field. Please give your MAJCOM Functional Managers or me a call if you'd like some more information about the exciting opportunities here at the Schoolhouse.

